

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/08477

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, drawn to a composition for use in analyzing one or more carbohydrate, which comprises a reducing agent, a derivatizing agent and DMSO.

Group II, claim(s) 9-18, drawn a process for analyzing one or more carbohydrates, which comprises contacting one or more carbohydrates with a reducing agent, a derivatizing agent capable of covalent attachment to one or more carbohydrates, which is in a solvent comprising an aqueous buffer having a predetermined pH; and a reducing agent in a second solvent comprising DMSO.

Group III, claim(s) 19-23, drawn to a kit for analyzing one or more carbohydrates by fluorescence, which comprises a derivatizing agent capable of forming one or more fluorescing carbohydrate derivatives from one or more carbohydrates, which is in a solvent comprising an aqueous buffer having a predetermined pH; and a reducing agent in a second solvent comprising DMSO.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The composition is known (See US Patent 5,543,054, col. 19, lines 1-29 - disclosing a solution of oligosaccharides, N-acetylglucosamine oligomers prepared as aqueous solutions to which the oligo labeling dye ANTS, i.e a derivatizing agent capable of forming one or more fluorescing carbohydrate derivatives from the one or more carbohydrates, was added and the reducing agent of sodium cyanoborohydride in DMSO were added and incubated resulting in fluorescent band conjugated tetra-, penta-, hexa-, and heptamers. These are the exact carbohydrates, derivatizing agents and DMSO taught in the Specification, see, e.g. pp.. 2-7. Since no special technical feature exists, there is no unity of invention.